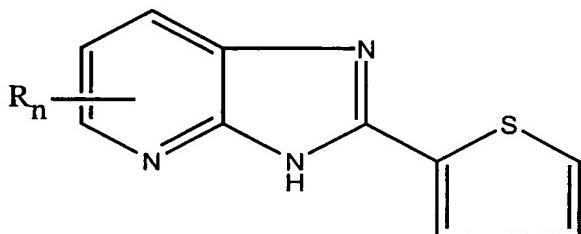


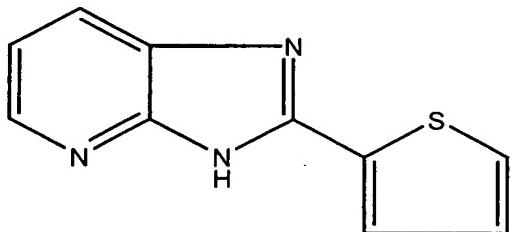
VIRAL TREATMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pharmaceutical composition that inhibits or slows the growth of viruses is disclosed. This same composition can be used to treat viral infections, particularly HIV and hepatitis as well as fungal infections of the genus *cryptococcus neoformans* or *curvularai lunata*. The composition comprises from about 10 mg to about 6000 mg of a 2-thienyl-imidazolo [4,5]pyridine of the formula:



wherein n is from 1 to 4, R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, chloro, bromo or fluoro, oxychloro, hydroxy, sulphydryl, alkoxy having the formula $-O(CH_2)_yCH_3$ wherein y is from 1 to 6, the prodrugs thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. The preferred anti-viral compound is



and its hydrochloride salt. Mixtures of the 2-thienyl imidazolo [4,5] pyridines can also be used to treat viral infections.